

BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

OCTOBER, 1986
VOLUME 8, NUMBER 8

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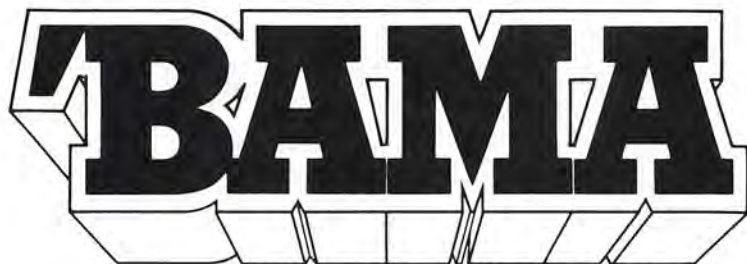
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

OCTOBER, 1986

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 8

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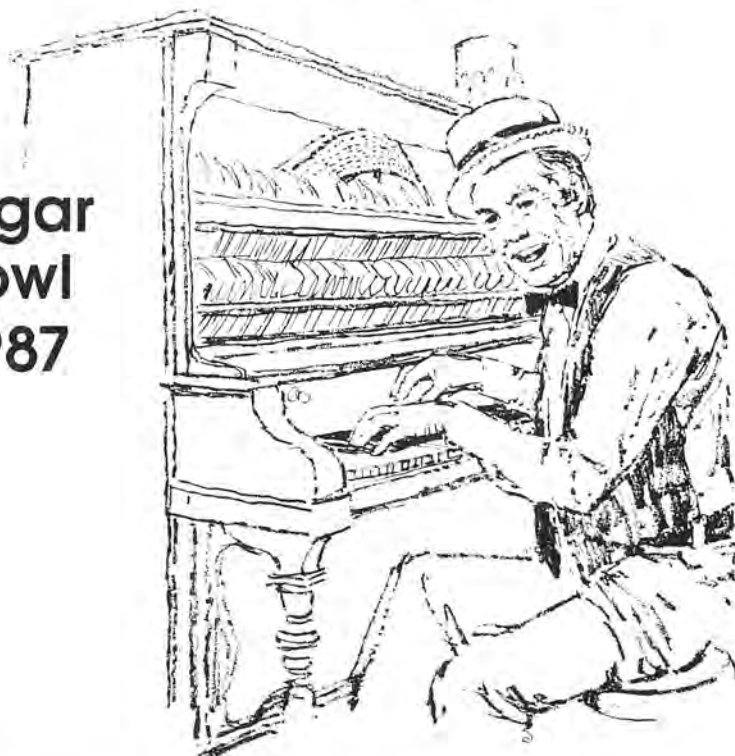
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Their Time Will Come



by Kirk McNair

Most of Alabama's heralded freshman football class will be freshmen again next year

The future is *not* now for one of the most highly-regarded group of freshman football players in Alabama history. However, that is no reflection on the promise Bama's coaching staff holds for this group or on their abilities.

For the past few years Alabama has been averaging about a dozen first year players seeing regular playing time in varsity competition. That has been in part because the last few recruiting years have been very productive ones, but perhaps more than that it has reflected the shortness of quality at some positions among upperclassmen. It was primarily because Bama had more quality players returning this year that Alabama Head Coach Ray Perkins predicted fewer freshmen would be seeing playing time this season. Through the first third of the year that has proved true.

There is a substantial school of thought among college head football coaches that, ideally, no freshmen would participate. That goes back to an earlier age when freshmen were not eligible for varsity competition. Former Georgia Tech Head Coach Bobby Dodd held the position then that a team would lose one game for every *sophomore* it started.

This year's group of 22 scholarship freshmen includes a half dozen who have seen playing time, all of them either in limited backup roles or with the specialty teams. Three—tight end Charlie Abrams, strongside tackle Danny Cash and center Mike Zuga—

Charlie Abrams (87) is working his way into playing time at tight end and is also a member of some of the Bama specialty teams.

Barry Fikes Photo



Danny Cash is one of the biggest of the Bama newcomers. He reported for drills in excellent condition and is now a second teamer for the Tide.

Barry Fikes Photo



Center was a thin spot on the Alabama depth chart when the Tide reported back this fall. Freshman Mike Zuga has moved into the number two spot behind All-America candidate Wes Neighbors.

Barry Fikes Photo

are with the offense, while three—noseguard Willie Wyatt, cornerback John Mangum and strong safety Lee Ozmint—are on defense.

A few others work with the varsity and dress out for games, but have not yet seen action. Defensive tackle Byron Holdbrooks, center Chris Robinette and quarterbacks Jeff Dunn and Billy Ray will probably not see action this season, thus preserving a year of eligibility.

Barring some unforeseen circumstance, the balance of the freshmen will almost certainly be redshirted. Working on the scout teams are wide receiver LaMonde Russell; offensive tackles Kevin Penny and Scott Tucker; offensive guards Greg Kiker (who came in this fall with an injury) and Terrill Chatman; center Roger Shultz; quarterback Gary Hollingsworth; outside linebackers Spencer Hammond and Lee Rockwell; defensive tackle David Lenoir; defensive back Mike Smith; and placekicker Alan Ward.

The decision whether or not a player will be redshirted is based on the player. Perkins is a staunch supporter of the freshman eligibility rule, having noted that it isn't fair to hold a player out of competition just because he's a freshman. An Alabama freshman deemed good enough to help the team win will get an opportunity to play.

Perkins is Alabama's quarterback coach. He is on record as saying that he has told Bama's three quarterback signees—Ray, Dunn and Hollingsworth—that he hopes they will be redshirted this year. "That doesn't mean they aren't excellent prospects," he said. "Each one is. We're not disappointed with any of the three. If any can demonstrate he's advanced past Mike Shula, David Smith or Vince Sutton, he could be in a game."

Ray, a prep All-America, was one of the most sought-after—and talked about—prospects of last year. As Mike Shula, Ray insists that he picked Bama for more than football, that he chose Alabama as the place he'd like to spend four years regardless of how football came out. "There's a lot to learn and as a quarterback I've got to understand everything," he said. "It's difficult and time consuming, but I think I've improved mentally. I know I have to work on my skills and that's what the offseason and spring training are for. I'll play when I'm ready." He said that he and Dunn "are basically not on the scout team and not really working with the varsity, just watching."

Hollingsworth was the first of the three quarterbacks to commit to Alabama. Although he grew up more an Auburn fan than an Alabama fan, when he got a telephone

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call from Perkins he was convinced to join the Tide. And he didn't worry about the competition from the more highly-touted Ray and Dunn. "I wanted to come here, so what they did didn't really affect me," he said. He, too, says the mental part of being an Alabama quarterback is the toughest. "When I first looked at the playbook I thought I'd never conquer it, but I've made progress," he said.

Charlie Abrams, 6-4, 220, has probably seen the most playing time of the Alabama freshmen because he is on the kicking teams, the short yardage offensive squad, and number two at tight end behind Howard Cross, who has missed some playing time with an ankle injury. Offensive Coordinator George Henshaw works with the tight ends and calls Abrams "a good, steady performer. He's smart and consistent and has good hands and we expect good things from him. He needs to get in the weightroom in the off-season. He's very similar to Preston Gothard (former Tide tight end now with the Pittsburgh Steelers)."

Assistant Head Coach Jim Fuller is working with strong tackle Danny Cash (6-6, 275) and center Mike Zuga (6-3, 250), both second teamers, and center Chris Robinette (6-3, 245), who has dressed but not played. (Cash is also working with some of the kicking teams.) "They just haven't had enough



Lee Ozmint came to Alabama highly-touted as a wide receiver and defensive back. He was impressive at strong safety, but Alabama was deep there so he moved to tight end. Then two strong safeties went down in as many days and he was back on defense. Now he's number two.

Barry Fikes Photo

Update On The Seven Missing

Alabama's initial recruiting class of 29 was whittled to 22, six temporarily lost to new NCAA academic standards, one defecting.

Four of the six who failed to qualify for athletics competition this fall elected to enter The University. This year will be lost to them insofar as having five years in which to participate. The four—wide receiver Pierre Goode, running back William Kent, lineman Anthony Ramsey and lineman Thomas Rayam—must satisfactorily pass 24 semester hours of classwork before next fall. So doing, they will be eligible to participate and will be sophomores with four years in which to have three years of playing time.

They are not allowed to participate in any interscholastic athletics through the entire year. They are allowed to participate in study halls conducted by the athletics department.

Two others who failed to meet academic requirements for participation elected to attend Tennessee Military Institute in Sweetwater, Tennessee. Robert Stewart, a 6-1, 248-pound fullback, and Trent Patterson, a 6-1, 290-pound lineman, are playing football and studying in an academic program which prepares them to retake the ACT and SAT standardized tests.

Both started for Coach Bubba Hooker (who took over TMI's football program this year after a successful tenure at Alabama's Marion Military Institute) in TMI's opening game, a 7-6 loss to Carson-Newman, and Hooker said both are doing well. Stewart

was considered for linebacker, but started at fullback. Patterson, who was generally considered a noseguard candidate, is playing offensive guard. "Both are definitely major college prospects, no question about it," said Hooker. "They are doing very well."

He said TMI would prepare them for Alabama both academically and athletically. "They are in a study program three hours a day Sunday through Thursday, a one hour daily course in ACT/SAT and a two-hour Tuesday night course in which they practice taking the tests," he said. Both will take the tests in October and, if necessary, again in December. If they pass a standardized test they will be eligible to transfer to Alabama for the spring semester, take part in spring training, and be freshmen next fall with five years in which to have four years of participation.

From a football aspect, Hooker said "We are getting them ready, helping them make the transition from high school to college football. They are learning new things about conditioning and techniques and working through the homesickness that some freshmen have."

He also said he was keeping Bama Assistant Coach Jody Allen, who served as an assistant to Hooker at Marion before joining the Alabama staff, apprised of the progress of the two Tiders-to-be.

The one defection from the Bama camp was lineman Glenn Watts, who left in the first week of fall practice.—**Kirk McNair**



John Mangum (29) is a member of all the Alabama kicking teams, but got his first game action against Southern Miss—where his father was a star player in the mid-1960s.

Barry Fikes Photo



When Willie Wyatt went out for football in the 10th grade at Gardendale High School his schoolmates predicted he'd be "another Curt Jarvis." Now he's playing behind Jarvis at nose-guard for Alabama.

Barry Fikes Photo

playing time, but I can see improvement in their play from week to week in the scrimmages we have in practice," said Fuller. "It's going to be difficult for them to get a lot of playing time on Saturdays with our schedule, but we are trying to spend a lot of time with them and give them contact during the week."

Center, as quarterback, was an area of top priority in recruiting last year with Bama signing Zuga, Robinette and Roger Shultz in hopes of finding backup help to Wes Neighbors this year, and a starter for the future. "I think we all just looked at each other and said 'This is going to be fun,'" said Robinette. "But we all knew the opportunity was going to be there and we all knew that wherever we went there would be competition. It's been a ball and I think I'm improving. I think I'll be redshirted, but it doesn't matter to me if I help now or help later."

Assistant Coach Rick Smith has two Alabama freshmen in backup roles, John Mangum at cornerback and Lee Ozmint at safety. Although Mangum is listed as number two at left cornerback behind Freddie Robinson, his playing time (against Southern Miss) came as the number three right cornerback. Ozmint saw action at strong safety against

Vanderbilt. Both play on the Bama specialty teams. "John knows what to do," said Smith. "He's real intelligent and a great competitor who is going to be a good football player with a little experience. Lee is also doing very well, learning every day and getting better in his technique. The strong safety has to recognize the offensive set and make the secondary calls and he's doing very well considering his experience." Ozmint came to Alabama expecting to be a wide receiver, but was a standout in the secondary. He was moved to tight end to try to bolster depth at that spot, but when number two and three strong safeties Rory Turner (knee) and Shon Lee (elbow) were injured on consecutive days, Ozmint went back on defense.

Willie Wyatt (6-0, 260) is in something of a familiar role, following behind all-star nose-guard Curt Jarvis. Although Wyatt and Jarvis never played together at Gardendale High School (Jarvis finished the year before Wyatt started playing football in the 10th grade), Willie notes that once he began his coaches and classmates exhorted him "to be the next Curt Jarvis. He was a legend." Wyatt admits finding the level of play at Alabama difficult. "It is so intense," he said. "Even the meetings are intense. Everyone here is working as hard as he can to be the best he can be."

Mike Dubose, who coaches Bama defensive linemen, says Wyatt "has made quite a bit of improvement. I've been pleased with his performance. He still has problems with pass rush technique, but that's almost always the case with men coming out of high school because they almost never see the kind of passing game in high school that we face."

He said that Byron Holdbrooks "has the physical size to play against a team trying to run it right at us, but he still has a lot of work to do on technique. He, too, has made good progress and I think he's going to be a fine player for us." Dubose thinks that Holdbrooks probably needs to trim 10 to 15 pounds from his 6-5, 275-pound frame.

Graduate assistant coaches work with the scout teams where the balance of this year's freshman class is getting work. "Certainly it's of utmost importance that the scout teams work hard to get us ready to play on Saturdays, but we also try very hard to give them techniques to get better themselves," said Jeff Fitzgerald, one of the graduate assistants. Fitzgerald, who works specifically with linebackers, has two new scholarshiped freshmen working at outside linebacker spots, Lee Rockwell and Spencer Hammond. "They are progressing just fine,"

said Fitzgerald. "They have the right attitude and they work hard." Fitzgerald was one of several graduate assistants who singled out Rockwell for his work habits. Lee, of course, is the younger brother of Bama starting outside linebacker Randy, a legend in his own time as an overachiever.

Mike Leonard has worked with both Lamonde Russell at wide receiver and Mike Smith in the secondary. "Lamonde has done a good job of picking up the offense," said Leonard. "He's very intelligent and a hard worker who really wants to succeed. He needs to improve in his technique running pass routes.

"Mike has a lot of ability and he, too, is very intelligent. In the last couple of weeks he has buckled down and started playing some good football."

David Lenoir (6-4, 245) is working under Steve Williford at defensive tackle. Williford is pleased with Lenoir's demonstrated ability and thinks he will be a good player when he gets stronger.

Strength is almost always mentioned when assessing freshmen linemen. Ikey Fowler, a graduate assistant working with the offensive line, said that the large group of new offensive linemen—6-5, 275 Kevin Penny and 6-5, 255 Scott Tucker at tackles; 6-3, 260 Greg Kiker and 6-5, 290 Terrill Chatman at guards; and 6-2, 255 Roger Shultz at center—"are all doing a good job and are all going to be good football players with strength and experience. And you can't get much better practice than going up against the likes of Curt Jarvis in practice each day."

Alan Ward was a legendary high school placekicker, a man who kicked 32 high school field goals, including game-winners of 57 and 58 yards. Ten times he kicked field goals in overtime to win football games, including a 52-yarder to win the state championship. He knew when he chose Alabama that he would be redshirted, but doesn't regret it for a moment. "I feel like I've improved maybe twice as much working with Van (Tiffin)," he said. "I had been doing some drills wrong, which he corrected. And, I don't think I was cocky, but if I was I found out I wasn't as good as I thought I was. I know I can get better." He said he doesn't really work on long distance field goals in practice very often, "but we did the other day kicking 48-yarders." And? "I made six out of seven." He also feels good about his kickoff work. "I usually kick to the end zone with a 3.8 (second) hang time," he said. Ward says his goal is not to break records at Alabama, "just to be one of the best kickers Alabama has had and which Van is."

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Spring Is In The Air

by Jan Miller

Spring sports performers have a full schedule in the fall

Karin Gaiser, Alabama's women's tennis coach, said it simply: "It's crucial." Dick Spybey, the women's golf coach, concurred: "You don't even think about having it. You have to. We'd never make it without it."

The "it" these coaches are talking about is the fall competitive season for what are considered by many as primarily spring sports—tennis and golf. This fall season has many uses for both coaches and athletes and is vital to the spring successes of the teams.

"From a coach's standpoint, it gives you a chance to see your freshmen under competitive pressure, the chance to work something into their games that might not be there from junior tennis, and the chance to formulate options for their weaknesses," said Gaiser. "It's our form of spring training. Their shot selection and technique are established in the fall and lots of changes are made; there's a lot of experimentation under competition you can do in the fall that you can't afford to do in the spring."

For both teams practice began on the first legal day possible—the day after the teams' August physicals—and will not stop until the final competition of the spring season in late May or early June. Although this could seemingly facilitate "burn out," Spybey finds that with certain precautions the year-round competition works nicely into a cycle for his team.

"In the past the most strenuous work was not done in the fall," said the third-year coach. "Schools have now changed that. With the athletes playing all summer the tendency is to come to school and relax a bit. You can't have that. Our strenuous fall season combats that with a demanding autumn schedule that forces the women to stay on top of their games. In December they relax a bit since the weather forces them to lay off, then they return in January hungry to play—exactly how you want them."

Spybey has scheduled five matches each



Mikki Bjuro is one of the leaders of what is expected to be a very good Alabama women's golf team.

University of Alabama Photo

in the fall and spring, evening out his two seasons for an important reason. The fall season as well as the spring counts towards the team's NCAA tournament chances at the spring's end. The NCAA Championship for women's golf ranks a percentage of each athlete's competition (minimum of 15 days played, maximum 30) for both fall and spring seasons.

"We cannot afford to have a poor fall season, because we won't get to the NCAA Championship," said Spybey. "The fall is just as important as the spring for us since rankings and bids go on both. It also tells me a lot about our individuals. The fall is when I'm experimenting with lineups trying to find our best five and the best combinations of those five. Each week counts for us."

New to the Alabama women's fall golf schedule this year is the Tiger-Tide Invitational; an Alabama/Auburn-hosted event. Spybey says he has wanted to start some-

thing in the state of Alabama for collegiate women's golf and this year he and Auburn Coach Bud Marsee have invited the Alabama schools as well as SEC schools and top regional teams. The tournament will be held in Dothan at the Olympia Spa October 31-November 2 and sports a "tremendous" field of 17 quality teams from the Southeast; a powerful assemblage of talent for a first-year tourney. Marsee and Spybey are working hard to establish this annual tournament and look for the Tiger-Tide to resemble the men's Alabama Intercollegiate Championship in state-wide participation and prestige.

Two weekends earlier, Coach Gaiser and crew will be hosting another splendid array of talent as the Third Annual Roberta Alison Southern Intercollegiate Tournament converges on Tuscaloosa October 17-19. Named for the first female letterwinner in women's athletics (who played on the men's team in 1962 and 1963 and continued on to win back-to-back USTA National Championship crowns) the Roberta Alison will showcase 20 of the nation's finest squads in a three-day "pre-Nationals," according to Gaiser. Known as one of the premier tournaments of the fall season, the Southern Intercollegiate offers that intense level of competition so evident in Gaiser's scheduling.

"We sure don't have any easy matches this fall," laughed the coach. "They are all going to be tough. But without our tough fall schedule we couldn't compete in the spring. Tennis is too demanding. We need to maintain our conditioning base and you do that by playing year-round. A demanding schedule like we have (running September to November and comprised of matches like the Wake Forest Invitational, the Southern Intercollegiate, the inaugural SEC Women's Indoor Championship and the Rolex-ITCA Regional Championship for those who qualify) will tell me a lot about our athletes; they need to be dedicated and serious about their tennis with their goals in clear focus."

So if you see the women's tennis team gutting it out on the courts in September or find the women golfers pushing themselves for that better chip shot in October, you know why—they're not just playing; they've got work to do.

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He's Selling Bama

by Kirk McNair

Tide recruiting coordinator scours the nation for top talent

Alabama Head Football Coach Ray Perkins didn't take very long to make a decision on his new recruiting coordinator when Steve Hale left right after signing day in February to accept a coaching position at Southwest Louisiana. And Brad Bradford, the man he selected, didn't take long to accept his new assignment.

Bradford, who had served as Bryant Hall dorm director in 1984-85 and 1985-86, remembers that Perkins "asked me if I wanted to do it and I said 'yes sir.' It was short and sweet." There was one bit of negotiation, Bradford remembers. "I asked him if I would get a ring when we won the national championship and he said I would."

Not short, though, are the hours. Although Bradford never sees a high school prospect play, he knows the names of prospects from coast to coast, and he knows which Alabama assistant coaches are in charge of getting them to Alabama. While high school games and practices are watched and actual contact is made by assistant coaches (and Perkins) off campus, Bradford pulls everything together.

Alabama's football staff meets each day to discuss Crimson Tide personnel, practice plans, scouting reports and other aspects of game preparation. However, a segment of that meeting each day is devoted to recruiting plans and progress. Bradford sits in on staff meetings to provide an overall update, while the assistant coaches discuss their specific prospects.

Each Bama assistant is assigned a primary recruiting area and most also have secondary locales. Those secondary areas are often nontraditional recruiting areas, but will get Bama attention based on a particular tie a

coach has.

Each weekend those assistant coaches scatter to their recruiting areas. Bradford makes arrangements for airplanes and automobiles, getting the coaches to the games they want to see and back to the site of Alabama's Saturday game.

Bradford's contact with prospects and their parents comes on recruiting weekends, when the prep stars visit Tuscaloosa. In the fall those are home game weekends. At the end of the season there will be more intensified recruiting weekends as prospects make official visits. Bradford is charged with arranging for their transportation to campus, housing, meals, and an overall program designed to show the prospects every aspect of life as an Alabama student-athlete.

"I had been involved in recruiting to a degree as dorm director, because Bryant Hall is important to our recruiting," he said.

Bradford doesn't profess to be the alpha and the omega of Alabama recruiting. "The key to our recruiting success is in that corner office over there," he says, pointing to Perkins' office across the hall from his. "He is a player's coach, and that's very obvious to high school players. When he talks to them he's straight. He doesn't promise them anything except a chance. And I think his recruiting record speaks for itself.

"He is really the recruiting coordinator, the hub around which the recruiting wheel turns. He knows what our needs are better than anyone else and he personally meets every prospect. And he's the only one who offers a scholarship.

"No one here uses negative recruiting (discussion of competing universities)," said

Bradford. "Everything we do is positive—selling the degree program of The University and our athletics program, including the chance to play for a national championship."

There are two other key members of Bradford's domain. Linda Knowles, who served as Paul Bryant's secretary, has been the recruiting coordinator's secretary under both Hale and Bradford. "She really knows the process forward and backward," said Bradford. "She's the catalyst. She knows what has to be done and when and makes sure it is. And," he adds, "she does the work of three people. I went to a national recruiting seminar and people there couldn't believe we had only one secretary in our office."

Clem Gryska served as Bama's recruiting coordinator for all sports through the 1970s and has been an administrative assistant to Perkins for the past four years. This year his assignment includes once again being involved in the recruiting process. "I can't tell you how helpful Coach Gryska is," said Bradford. "We visit as often as possible and his insight is invaluable. He's one of the classiest men I've ever been associated with."

Gryska's assistance comes in a variety of forms. His longtime knowledge of the high school scene throughout the Southeast includes knowing the amount of involvement that some prep coaches take in the recruiting process. Some stay completely out of it, some want all of it going through them, some have very good feelings for Alabama, some have strong feelings for other universities. He is also charged with the one area in which selected alumni and friends of The University can be involved in the recruiting process—writing letters to prospects.

The involvement of nonstaffers in recruit-

Recruiting Coverage Begins Next Month

Coverage of top high school football prospects begins next month in **'BAMA**.

Just as recruiting coordinators throughout the nation are poring over lists of high school senior football players, so are we. **'BAMA** reports will concentrate on the leading players in Alabama and the surrounding states, but names of prospects linked to the Crimson Tide are trickling in from throughout the nation and they, too, will be noted.

ing has always been a dangerous practice and Alabama has traditionally kept such involvement to a minimum. "We're responsible for the actions of our alumni and friends and do everything we can to educate them on the rules," said Bradford. "When our coaches speak to alumni groups they tell them not to get involved in recruiting. The best rule of thumb insofar as to what an alumnus or friend can do in recruiting is what your mother told you: 'If you're wondering whether you can or can't, you probably can't.'"

Bradford also gives a great deal of credit to his predecessor, Steve Hale. "Steve took some time in making the transition and was very helpful," said Bradford. "We went over each of the programs and critiqued them, looking as the assets and liabilities of each. Steve did a great job as recruiting coordinator and he left it in great shape for me to take over."

The recruiting process begins almost as soon as it has ended. Following signings in February, Bradford will be getting out some questionnaires to thousands of high school coaches throughout the nation. Last year over 1,200 were returned. The questionnaires are looking for top football prospects, but now they ask for more than just name, position, height, weight and 40-yard dash time. The questionnaire includes requests for grade point average and ACT/SAT score. "That's now at the top of everything," said Bradford. "A conversation with the guidance counselor is as important as one with the football coach."

Bradford has contacts with high school coaches beyond the telephone and questionnaires. Twice a year Bama conducts coaching clinics, which he coordinates. "It's a two-way street," says Bradford. "Certainly we want to have them come in and learn things that will help them be better football coaches. After all, a primary reason that we have quality football players is what they learned from their high school coaches. But it's also an opportunity for everyone on our staff to get to know them better."

"The key to successful recruiting is keeping mistakes to a minimum," said Bradford. "I think we've been real fortunate in having done that with these last four classes. One mistake that we certainly don't want to make is that we don't miss out on a blue chip player who really wants to go to Alabama. He may be in Eugene, Oregon, and we have to find out about him. That's why we follow up on everyone. We don't want to snub anyone. If we get a call that such-and-such a player at so-and-so high school is interested in Ala-

OCTOBER '86/BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide

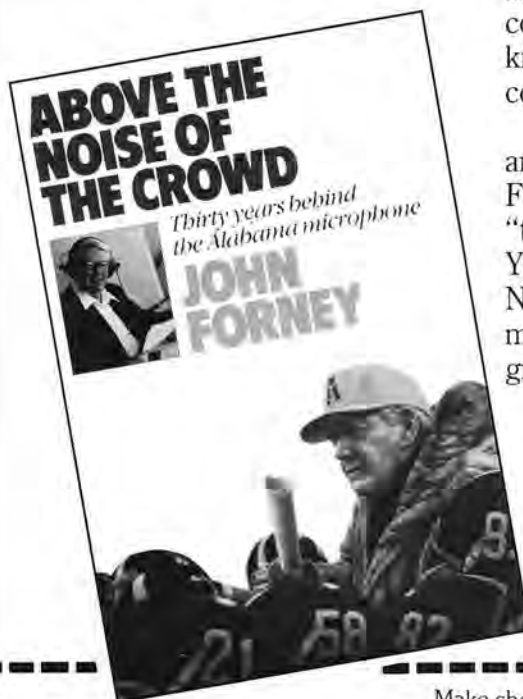
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bama, we find out about him. We talk to his high school coach, we get film, and we may see him in person. The majority of those tips don't pan out, but if one does it's time well spent.

"The idea is to match our needs to the abilities of the players we are trying to sign, finding out who is interested in being a part of our program, and so on. It's like putting the pieces of a puzzle together."

Recruiting coordinators have another tool for finding prospects these days, subscriptions to newsletters and magazines purporting to list the nation's top players. None of these are infallible and some are better than others, but among the features most include that is helpful to recruiting coordinators is listing the schools in which the prospects indicate interest. If Bradford sees a player listing Alabama as a school in which he is interested, he's going to find out about that player.

Bradford notes "Alabama is one of a handful of schools that can recruit nationwide. That's because of the tradition. Coach Bryant laid the foundation for us—the national championships, the television appearances, the bowl games and the star players he developed. It's our job to take advantage of that foundation, and to build on it."

March, April, June and July are months in which there is no recruiting. May and the fall months are for evaluation—coaches watching games and practices. Personal contacts—visits in the prospects' homes and/or schools—begin in December and continue through February.

Although the list of possible prospects is initially huge, and even though it changes almost daily, through the course of events it is worked down to about 150 to 200 by the end of football season. "And then it starts to take care of itself in some respects," notes Bradford. "If we're recruiting a player and he commits to another school and we're convinced of that commitment, then we're not going to keep him on our recruiting list."

"Or we may need to sign three tight ends and we get positive commitments from three that we want. We may have been recruiting 10 to get those three, so now the other seven are no longer on our list." Perkins said last year that he offered "about 70" scholarships to land 29 signees.

Once upon a time there was almost no limit to what a school could send to a prospect as part of the selling program. "We sent posters, calendars, 'BAMA magazine and on and on and on," said Bradford. "Now we're limited to sending a press guide, a game program after the game has been played, a wallet-sized schedule card, an admissions



The tools of a recruiting coordinator's trade include a telephone, film projector, videotape player and volumes of reports. Brad Bradford has assumed that position for Alabama this year.

Barry Fikes Photo

brochure and a recruiting brochure, plus letters. Basically we will have some kind of mailing to our prospects every week."

Bradford is particularly sorry that posters can no longer be sent to high schools. "When I was a high school coach I looked forward to the posters," he said. "We put them up in the lockerroom and we also used them as a motivational device. For instance, offensive linemen get almost no recognition, but we would allow our offensive lineman who did the best job in a game to have his

choice of one of the posters coming in that week."

Bradford's life has revolved around athletics. He was a high school football, basketball and baseball star at Colbert County High School in Leighton. He was the quarterback on a team that had such underclassmen as Ozzie Newsome and Thad Flanagan, who went on to star and captain Alabama teams, and Phil Gargis and Ed West, who played at Auburn. A top young basketball

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/OCTOBER '86

player then was Leon Douglas, who would become one of Bama's all-time greatest.

When his high school career ended he earned a scholarship to Athens College, a combination baseball/basketball grant. "I got the scholarship because I had a teammate who was 6-7 and didn't have a car and I had a car," he says, but he led his team in batting as a freshman. At the end of the fall semester, though, Bradford gave up the last seven semesters of his scholarship to transfer to Alabama. "Nothing against Athens, but it's a liberal arts college and I wanted a degree in biology," he said. So he transferred to Alabama, worked his way through college, and graduated in May, 1974, with a double major, biology and physical education.

Almost 10 years to the day he would return to The Capstone as director of Bryant Hall.

In between he was a very successful high school coach. He served for three years under Bud Mills at Cherokee Vocational (offensive coordinator one year, defensive coordinator one year and head baseball coach). In 1977 he went to Huntsville High School under Paul Glover, first working with the junior high program, then taking over responsibility for linebackers with the varsity. One of his charges was Wes Neighbors. Again, he served as head baseball coach. In 1979 he joined John Childress's staff at Butler, where one of his linebackers was future Tider Steve Booker and a top lineman was Adam Schiebner, who went to Texas and now plays for Seattle.

In 1980 he got his first head coaching opportunity, taking over a Tanner team that had won only six games in two years. A very active quarterback club at Tanner ("They raised \$25,000 a year putting on the state tractor pull," said Bradford) told him they would be happy with a break even season. Tanner went 9-1 and gained the state playoffs. The next year he had only 13 players out for fall practice. "We couldn't practice but once a day because our players had to work on the farms," he said. "By the time school started we had gotten eight more players out and by dressing out a manager we could have a scrimmage of sorts." Tanner went 9-1, again making it to the state playoffs.

Bradford and his new bride, the former Barbara Garlen of Athens, liked Tanner, but life there wasn't easy. They had bought 10 acres of land for \$18,000 and the house that came with it for \$3,000. "Everyone else who looked at the property had planned to either use the house for a barn or burn it down," said Bradford. "It was 680 square feet with a tin roof, no insulation, no closets, no wall

light switches or outlets. It was a shack. But Barbara never complained."

Nevertheless, when Muscle Shoals came looking for a head football coach in 1982, Bradford was ready to leave Tanner. He was also named head baseball coach and director of athletics. His first football team won two games, "and we were lucky to win those." His career at Muscle Shoals began auspiciously, playing against his alma mater, powerful Colbert County. "We shouldn't have had a prayer, but at halftime there was no score and we had to fight our way through our fans to get to the dressing room," said Bradford. "I could have been elected Coach of the Decade right then. Colbert County took a 7-0 lead in the third quarter. With time running out in the game we were driving and I made the decision to kick for the tie and try to win it in overtime if we scored a touchdown. We scored a touchdown and I called for the kicking team. My kicker looked me right in the face and said, 'Coach, I can't make it.' I was shocked, but I sent him in. As he was running onto the field he turned around and again told me he couldn't make it. He kicked the ball right into our right tackle's back."

In 1983 Muscle Shoals won three straight games in overtime and finished with a 5-5 record, and Bradford expected to have a good team in 1984. Because he had some good athletes, Bama assistant coach Rocky Felker (now head coach at Mississippi State) was coming around and they became good friends. Bradford attended the Alabama spring coaching clinic in 1984 and ended up sitting with Coach Perkins at a barbecue. Perkins invited Bradford to come down with his wife to talk to him. That talk turned out to be an offer of a job as Bryant Hall dorm director.

From the 680-square foot house in Tanner, the Bradfords—now three and soon to be four—became "parents" to 132 more young men in an 80-room house.

"It was great in that we really got to know the players on a personal level and it was particularly great for our boys, Jake (who will be four December 1) and Joe Claude (two)," said Bradford. "And I think our players—particularly those with younger brothers and sisters at home—enjoyed having the boys around."

Bradford has found one advantage to no longer living at Bryant Hall. "Barbara is a wonderful cook," he said, "but Bryant Hall is a feeding trough. When we first moved in I gained 12 pounds in three weeks. When we moved out I lost nine pounds in four weeks."

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Bill Condon:

A Mean Machine

by Donald F. Staffo

Bama's junior guard ranks among the roughest and toughest on the field

To play football at the level which Alabama competes, a man has got to be tough. And in the trenches, he's got to be a little on the mean side. Bill Condon has the reputation of filling the bill.

"Bill is real aggressive, and, yeah, he's pretty mean," says defensive lineman Derrick Rushton, who, as a member of Alabama's scout team, plays across from Condon, and thus bangs heads with him every day in practice. "He's got a mean temper, and when it goes off, it's off. I think Curt Jarvis (the Tide's preseason All-America noseguard) is the meanest guy on the team, and Condon is not far behind him."

It's that toughness, or meanness if you will, that enabled Condon, as a true freshman, to work his way up the depth chart to start for the Crimson Tide. It's probably that trait that helped Condon to be selected a *Football News* first team sophomore All-America last year, and to the Southeastern Conference second team by the *Birmingham News*. It's also what makes him a legitimate all-star candidate again this season.

"Bill is more intense than most of the other players," notes Wes Neighbors, Bama's center and Condon's roommate in Bryant Hall. "I don't think he's very mean off the field, but he's definitely mean on the field, when it counts. In games, he really gets wound up. It's something that you've got to witness. There have been a number of times when we had to pull him away from fights (with the opposition).

"He's not one to shy away from a battle. He likes to mix it up out there. He's a threat to curse anybody out at any moment. You

As an offensive guard in Alabama's complicated offensive system, Bill Condon is often called on to pull out and block, and he has the quickness to do it.

Barry Fikes Photo







Jim Fuller

don't want to push him the wrong way. He even looks mean. We call him 'Cousin Smiley' because he never smiles."

Neighbors, however, points out that Condon's real personality doesn't come across immediately. "Bill is quick-tempered, yet he's gentle. You've got to know him and understand him. I think he's like that (with a short fuse) because he's got two older brothers (both former football players; Frank, now 27 and Mike, 26) who used to rough him up. Not anymore though."

"I've heard him described as Neanderthal. He's aware of how he's perceived, and he's trying to improve."

"He's so hyper that he'll get up and shave at 3 o'clock in the morning. I didn't like him when I first met him. But after you get to know him he's a real nice guy. Now he's my best friend and a great roommate."

Condon admits he sometimes has a problem with his control. "On the field I guess I do lose my temper," he said. "I think that comes from my desire to win. I just get the adrenalin going. I hate to lose. If we're losing, or my man beats me, I get mad at myself. It's because I want to do well. I want to achieve. I think I play better when I'm all hyped up. I feel I have to be mean so that people don't take advantage of me out on the field. It's 'them vs. us,' 'him vs. me.'"

When he gets mad, Condon can react like a bull, who as myth has it, charges on the sight of red—once in a while even if it's Alabama crimson.

Has Condon ever lost his temper in practice? Rushton says, "It does happen sometimes. Some things just tick him off. If he thinks you gave him a cheap shot, you can expect him to retaliate. You can be 100 per-

cent sure that he'll get you back somehow.

"He's a good player. He's very strong and he's rough. He will not walk away if someone brings a fight to him. He'll stand his ground. He won't run. That's just his nature."

Condon concedes that he has lost his temper in practice. "It's kind of hard. I don't mean to, but I play hard," he explained. "I try not to lose my temper because these are my teammates and people I live with. But I have to learn to control my temper more on and off the field."

Associate Sports Information Director J.D. Rutledge acknowledges that Condon has the image of a tough guy. "He's probably the enforcer on the offensive line. If something breaks out, you'd want him in the middle of it. He's confined most of his activity to the field these days."

Rutledge's boss, SID Wayne Atcheson says of Condon, "He strikes me as tough. He's a fighter, a very competitive, very punishing type of player. He's seldom hurt, and when he is, he plays anyway. He and Jarvis are in the same category."

And make no mistake about it, for sure, Condon is not someone that most people would want to mess with. But football players at this level are a breed apart, and most of them are not that unlike Condon. For instance, when asked how he feels when Condon loses his temper in practice Rushton responded, "It doesn't bother me. I do what I have to do. If I do something that triggers him, we'll just take it from there."

Condon doesn't seem mean off the field. In fact, he is rather good natured and laughs easily. He is even a little taken back to learn that some of his teammates thought that, at times, he had a mean streak in him.

"They said that," he said, when told some of their comments. "I want the people to know that I'm not a mean person. I'm a totally different person off the field than I am on it. On the field I do what I have to do. Off the field I'm easy-going and I kind of go with the flow. I try to have a good time with my friends."

"I am a moody person though," he continued. "I'm working on trying to have a more positive attitude about things and situations in life."

Condon is described by his teammates as the kind of man who wouldn't back down from a physical confrontation. "I don't know about that," says Condon. "I'd try to use some common sense. If my life depended on it, I wouldn't jump into something. I'm trying to watch what I say and what I do."

Majoring in a challenging field like finance, Condon is a good student (2.75 GPA) who lists math as his favorite subject. So much for



George Henshaw

the all brawn and no brains stereotype.

He says that John Hannah, a former Tiger who recently retired from the New England Patriots, was his favorite player. "He was probably the best offensive lineman in the pros. I've met him a couple of times and he seemed like a nice guy on and off the field. He represents the school very well. My goal is to be something like him."

Any reputation that Condon has he has earned by his style of play, a style that his coaches like.

"Bill is a very intense, very emotional, and very serious competitor," explains Assistant Head Coach Jim Fuller, who coaches Bama's offensive linemen. "He plays the game very physically, the way it was meant to be played. He won't shy away from anything or anybody. That's his greatest attribute, and it has helped him."

So has his strength, exhibited when Condon squatted 606 pounds during spring training. "I think he's the strongest man on the team," said Offensive Coordinator George Henshaw, who also coaches offensive linemen. "He doesn't have great size, but he overcomes that with his strength and quickness. And he plays smart. He is a good, solid and consistent performer. He's an aggressive football player."

Condon was a two-way all-star at Murphy High School in Mobile, where as an offensive guard and defensive end he led the Panthers to the state championship. For his play on both sides of the ball he was selected Alabama 4A Player Of The Year, an honor usually reserved for quarterbacks and tailbacks, and a prep All-America by *USA Today*.

"You have to be real mean all the time on defense, and a lot more physical," explained



Although offensive linemen are considered the anonymous members of a football team, Bama's Bill Condon makes his presence known to opponents.

University of Alabama Photo

Condon, who in his present position has had to learn to play with a little more control.

"Yeah, they say there's an offensive and defensive temperament, and we're just glad to get some of his defensive temperament over on the offensive side," said Fuller.

Although his personality may seem to be more suited for defense, Condon got the opportunity to play right away on offense when he was inserted into the starting lineup in only his fifth game after John McIntosh went down with an injury. He's been there ever since, grading out in Head Coach Ray Perkins' lingo, "a winner" in each of his appearances, with his highest marks coming in Alabama's 17-15 win over arch-rival Auburn.

"Looking back, by playing offense I got a chance to play a lot sooner," Condon said. "If I had stayed on defense I probably would not have started until this year. So things turned out for the best for me."

As an offensive guard, the 6-2, 255-pound Condon has to play with more restraint, meaning more than just lining up and going

off on the snap. He's had to master the various blocking schemes and recognize the alignments the defensive line is in.

"He's got an assignment on every play, whether it's run or pass," informed Henshaw. "In the running game he pulls more than anybody else, which means that he has to be quick enough to get out of the hole and fast enough to block a linebacker downfield. In trap blocking he has to pull and block inside the line. Being in the center of the line, he's responsible for pass protection. And he makes the front calls, which means that he has to identify the defense we'll be blocking against and call out any changes so that we're all on the same page."

Fuller says "Bill is one of the most consistent and dependable players we've had in the line. He's the type of person who is to the point—he doesn't beat around the bush. In addition to being very physical, he's very intelligent. He studies, knows, and understands his opponents. The coaches really enjoy having him on the field."

Condon's a football player, and a darn good one. He participates in an activity

where you're supposed to hit and, if you can, knock people down. He should not feel offended if people describe his style of play as physical, aggressive, or even mean. After all, guys like Mean Joe Greene, Jack Tatum, and before them Sam Huff, Ray Nitcheske, Joe Schmidt and a host of others made a living off such reputations. Some players would relish such a tag, but their style of play is just not intimidating enough.

As the late Vince Lombardi once said, "Dancing is a contact activity. Football is a collision sport." It's likely the famed Green Bay Packer coach would have loved the way Bill Condon goes about the business of playing football.

It's the way Bill Condon plays football that gives him his identity and helps determine who he is—an integral member of Alabama's offensive front wall. Take away his aggressiveness, or mean streak if you will, and he might be a member of the Million Dollar Band, the debate team, or some intramural two-hand touch team rather than an important cog on a Division I college football team contending for a National Championship.

Tide Has Experience

by Kirk McNair

Wimp Sanderson's seventh Bama team has depth and quality

On October 15 Wimp Sanderson will blow the whistle on Alabama basketball. No, not another scandal in college athletics. That day marks the start of practice for his seventh season as Alabama's head basketball coach. Bama returns four starters and three other men who have seen meaningful playing time for the Tide. However, one who is gone was a biggie, All-Southeastern Conference forward Buck Johnson, a first round draft choice by the powerful Houston Rockets of the National Basketball Association.

Nevertheless, this will be a very experienced basketball team. The four returning starters include three seniors—All-SEC point guard Terry Coner, wing guard Mark Gottfried, and small forward Jim Farmer—and a junior—All-SEC center Derrick McKey. The three others who have seen a lot of playing time are senior point guard James "J.J." Jackson, junior wing player Craig Dudley, and sophomore forward Michael Ansley.

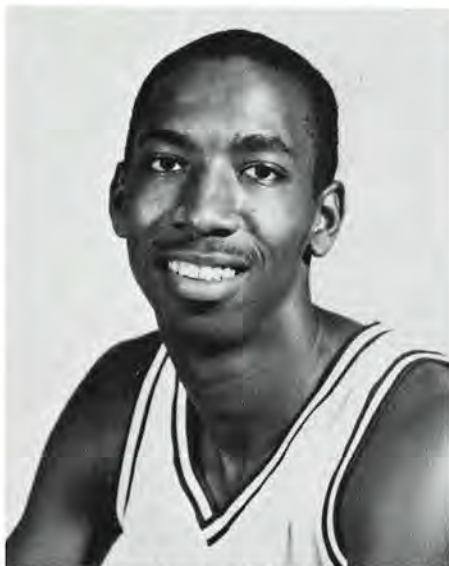
To them add redshirted freshman center Bill DeVaughn, walkon junior forward Scott Pierce, freshmen forwards Keith Askins, John Belk and Josh Gilbert, and freshman guard Joe Hudson. Finally, throw in a seven-foot transfer, center Rob Cornegy.

Among other things, the large squad means that Bama has more depth than at



A full stable of experienced, quality players won't erase the worry lines from the face of Alabama Head Basketball Coach Wimp Sanderson.

Barry Fikes Photo



Derrick McKey



Jim Farmer



Terry Coner

any time in recent memory. While no more than perhaps eight can be expected to do the bulk of the playing once SEC play begins, having a squad of 14 should assure plenty of bodies for practice. Over the past couple of seasons there have been times when managers and assistant coaches had to fill in at a position or two in order to have five against five in drills.

Sanderson's job is to blend these ingredients into another team worthy of post season tournament play. The record says he will. After gaining an National Invitation Tournament berth in his first season (1981), the Tide has made it to the NCAA Championship Tournament each of the past five years, including into the final round of 16 each of the past two seasons.

Although Sanderson will begin practice with a more experienced squad than in the past, he also has more newcomers than is usual. Regardless, the routine will be the same as it has been in every preseason—concentration on fundamentals and defense.

There is one difference, though. In the pre-conference schedule, Bama will have to play well to come out with a winning record. Sanderson's SEC record of 64-44 (59.3 percent) is better than any other league coach save one-year Kentucky man Eddie Sutton. However, Bama's record against nonconference teams under Sanderson is a stratospheric 63-17 (78.9 percent), partly because it has been forged against the likes of Northern Iowa, Florida Southern, New Hampshire, Biscayne, Rider, Bucknell and Mercer.

Not so this year. Not only does the schedule have some recognizable names—Northeast Louisiana, Florida State, Arkansas, Duke, Missouri, Oral Roberts, Penn, South

Carolina—there are also more road games than usual—all of those except South Carolina being played away from Tuscaloosa. Of course, except for South Carolina things will look pretty much the same in Memorial Coliseum when Athletes in Action comes for an opening exhibition game November 14, followed by Furman December 1 and Appalachian State December 20. The Arkansas game is in Birmingham December 10. (The Duke game, being played at the Meadows in East Rutherford, New Jersey, offers a disadvantage beyond just the skill of the Blue Devils. Tide players will have to work around final examinations.

The early book on Bama should have the Tide high. With Coner, Gottfried, Farmer, Jackson and Dudley all experienced on the perimeter, that should be a strong point.

Coner has been the SEC assist champion the past two years. Gottfried, who graduated in May and is now working on his master's degree in sports management, was winner of

the Birmingham Summer League Three-Point Range competition. Farmer won the Under 6-4 Slam Dunk competition. Jackson will backup at point guard, while Dudley will spell both Gottfried at wing guard and Farmer at wing forward.

The big man inside is McKey, a member of the World Games champion United States team last summer. Last year McKey led the SEC in shooting percentage and blocked shots and was among the leaders in scoring, rebounding and free throw shooting percentage.

Ansley is generally considered the heir apparent to Johnson's strong forward spot. Last year when Johnson missed four games with injury Ansley took over and performed admirably, most notably in the Vanderbilt game at Nashville when he scored 20 points and grabbed 17 rebounds. He was named to the All-SEC Freshman team.

As anyone would, Sanderson picks Kentucky to be favored to win the league. Al-

1986-87 Alabama Basketball Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown
45	Michael Ansley	F/C	6-7	215	So.	1L	Birmingham
41	Keith Askins	F	6-6	180	Fr.	HS	Athens
42	Jon Belk	F	6-8	218	Fr.	HS	Tampa, Fla.
30	Terry Coner	G	6-3	170	Sr.	3L	Birmingham
54	Rob Cornegy	C	7-0	220	Jr.	Tr.	Cambria Hgts. N.Y.
52	Bill DeVaughn	C	6-9	225	Fr.	RS	Birmingham
24	Craig Dudley	G/F	6-4	180	Jr.	2L	Gadsden
21	Jim Farmer	B/F	6-3	190	Sr.	3L	Dothan
40	Josh Gilbert	F	6-8	195	Fr.	HS	New Iberia, La.
23	Mark Gottfried	G	6-2	180	Sr.	2L	Mobile
11	James Jackson	G	5-11	167	Sr.	1L	Mongtomery
22	Joe Hudson	G	6-3	177	Fr.	HS	Playa del Ray, Calif.
31	Derrick McKey	F/C	6-9	190	Jr.	2L	Meridian, Miss.
33	Scott Pierce	F	6-4	175	Jr.	Sq.	Tuscaloosa



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though the Wildcats lost Kenny Walker and Roger Harden, nine lettermen return, including Cedric Jenkins and Robert Lock "who didn't start, but who could have started for seven other teams in our conference." He sees Auburn, Florida, and LSU as other contenders. Last year Bama finished tied for second in the league with a 13-5 mark and Sanderson says "I'd take that record and not play."

Until October 15, Bama players are working in a running and weight lifting program and, as basketball players the world over, playing in pickup games.

The Bama staff—Sanderson's assistants are holdovers David Hobbs, Kevin Gray and Fred Bryan and newcomer Gregg Polinsky, who came from Bob Weltlich's Texas staff—has not been resting until the start of practice.

September 1 through October 10 is a period in which the staff can make personal contact with prospects in their homes and schools. "We're facing the most critical recruiting year we've had," points out Sanderson. "We're on the road every day,



Mark Gottfried

primarily in Alabama and the surrounding states, but wherever we have to go."

He expects to sign "four or five, maybe six" players this year and "two or three guards."

The early signing period is November 9-16.

1986-87 Alabama Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Nov. 14	Athletes In Action	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Nov. 28	Northeast Louisiana	Monroe	7:00 CST
Dec. 1	Furman	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Dec. 6	Florida State	Tallahassee	7:30 EST
Dec. 10	Arkansas	Birmingham	7:30 CST
Dec. 13	Duke	Meadowlands, N.J.	9:00 EST
Dec. 20	Appalachian State	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Dec. 22	Georgia	Athens	6:30 EST
Dec. 29-	BMA Holiday Tournament	Kansas City	TBA
Dec. 30	(Missouri, Oral Roberts, Penn)		TBA
Jan. 3	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Jan. 7	Kentucky	Lexington	8:00 EST
Jan. 10	Vanderbilt	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Jan. 12	South Carolina	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Jan. 14	LSU	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Jan. 17	Mississippi	Oxford	2:00 CST
Jan. 21	Auburn	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Jan. 24	Tennessee	Knoxville	7:30 EST
Jan. 28	Florida	Gainesville	7:30 EST
Jan. 31	Georgia	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Feb. 4	Mississippi State	Starkville	7:30 CST
Feb. 7	Kentucky (TV)	Tuscaloosa	Noon CST
Feb. 11	Vanderbilt	Nashville	7:00 CST
Feb. 14	LSU (TV)	Baton Rouge	2:00 CST
Feb. 18	Mississippi	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Feb. 21	Auburn	Auburn	2:00 CST
Feb. 25	Tennessee	Tuscaloosa	7:30 CST
Feb. 28	Florida	Tuscaloosa	Noon CST
March 5-8	SEC Tournament	Atlanta	TBA

One That Got Away

by Al Browning

A scoreless tie 50 years ago was filled with drama and excitement

Phil Dickens of Tennessee, with an assist from Father Time, secured revenge after having his nose broken two years earlier.

Alabama, which would later secure numerous national championship trophies, saw one get away.

These things happened on The Third Saturday In October in 1936 when the Volunteers and Crimson Tide gathered in Birmingham for the renewal of their series that has become one of the more colorful in the nation.

Anyone who thinks a tie settles nothing needs to look back 50 years for proof that one can be important.

Anyone who thinks a scoreless tie is more boring than watching dew settle needs to do likewise.

This battle long ago between Tennessee and Alabama ended deadlocked because Dickens, a Big Orange linebacker, tackled Joe Riley, an Alabama halfback, just short of the goal line with only a few seconds remaining in the first half. A timekeeper fired his gun to suspend play before the Crimson Tide could line up to run another play that seemed destined to produce what would have been a decisive touchdown.

Zipp Newman described the action while writing in *The Birmingham News*: "Phil Dickens saved the football game for Tennessee in the last five seconds of the first half. He shuttled across the field to bring down Joe Riley on the one-yard line. Riley had skirted out wide and was moving down the sideline. Dickens gave one final lunge, knocking Riley out of bounds, and the whistle ended the half."

James L. "Bubber" Nisbet was captain of Alabama's team and he remembers the end of the first half vividly. "That was the first game played in Legion Field where they used an electric scoreboard clock and it gave them trouble all day," said Nisbet. "When



James "Bubber" Nisbet

Riley went out of bounds I asked the official how much time we had and he said 25 seconds. We broke huddle and another official came running in and called time. (Alabama Head Coach Frank) Thomas raised sand, but the decision stood."

It was a sweet moment as a hero for Dickens. In the 1934 game between the rivals, which was also played at Legion Field, he had been hit in the face by an Alabama player. The officials removed an end named Paul "Bear" Bryant from the game because of that alleged act of unsportsmanlike conduct.

But the officials had nabbed the wrong culprit, as several newspaper reporters had claimed, because it was Alabama tackle Bill Lee who had broken Dickens' nose.

"I did it, yeah, but not intentionally," Lee said last summer. "I would never hit a Tennessee player like that."

Perhaps that is true. But Ellis Dickens, widow of Phil Dickens, said something last summer that indicates the importance Tennessee players and Alabama players place on the series.

"Phil said the trainers straightened out his nose with a pencil, wrapped it with tape, gave him a pain pill, and sent him back into the game," Ellis Dickens said. "I guess that sort of explains the Tennessee-Alabama rivalry,



Joe Riley

what it means to both teams, and the guts he displayed."

Further explanation rests in the reflections of Arthur "Tarzan" White, an Alabama tackle in 1936, who recalls how costly the tie with Tennessee that year was to the Crimson Tide.

"We were the only unbeaten major team in the nation," White said. "The tie with Tennessee, which was like a win for them, cost us a bowl game and a national championship."

"They played a tough game. It was quite a battle, one of the hardest-hitting I can recall."

"We scurried around trying to get off a play before the end of the first half. But time was gone. The deed was done."

"It was a disappointing day for Alabama players and fans."

Alabama finished the season with an 8-0-1 record and fourth place (behind Minnesota, LSU which would go to the Sugar Bowl and Pittsburgh which would go to the Rose Bowl) in the first Associated Press national championship poll. The Crimson Tide allowed only 35 points that year.

Alabama could have had an invitation to the inaugural Cotton Bowl game in Dallas that year but turned it down because the Tide expected to go to the Rose Bowl. "The week before we were tied by Tennessee, Pitts-

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/OCTOBER '86

burgh—the last Pittsburgh team under Jock Sutherland—had been beaten by Carnegie Tech,” said Nisbet. “We had learned that the Rose Bowl bid to play Washington would go to either Pittsburgh or Alabama and since Pittsburgh had lost to Carnegie Institute we thought we would walk in.”

Tennessee finished with a 6-2-2 record.

Alabama was up. Tennessee was trying to get back up.

Then-Major Bob Neyland returned to Tennessee in 1936, after serving our country in the Panama Canal Zone, and made a quick observation about the Big Orange football team he was to coach.

“This team can win only by showing proper spirit and team cooperation,” Neyland said upon surveying a small team. “We must be one for all and all for one every day this season.”

That sounded like it should have come from the Army man he was.

“Neyland used two teams against us that day,” said Nisbet. “He had them divided so they were about equal and when the quarter changed he changed teams. That was very unusual then. The result was they stayed fresher than we did, even though I think we were stronger and more experienced.”

Meanwhile, Alabama Coach Frank Thomas, a scholarly sort, was making public appearances during which he provided an insight into his philosophy. He talked a lot about the complicated Notre Dame Box offensive formation the Crimson Tide was using with success, specifically about the importance of catching opponents by surprise with unusual alignments and trick plays.

Entering the sixth of his 15 seasons at The Capstone, Thomas was finding it more difficult to slip up on opponents. He had won back-to-back Southeastern Conference championships in 1933 and 1934. His 1934 team had produced a 10-0 record, including a 29-13 victory over Stanford in the Rose Bowl. His 1935 team had produced a 6-2-1 record, including a 25-0 victory over Tennessee.

His 1936 team was supposed to be powerful.

It was.

Almost everybody predicted The Third Saturday in October game would be a mismatch.

Former sports editor Bob Wilson of *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* seemed positive that Tennessee would not be able to master Alabama:

“Tennessee faces its most desperate fight of the season.

“The Max Schmeling situation before his fight with Joe Louis comes to mind this week.

OCTOBER '86/BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide



Frank Thomas

“Not since 1932 has Tennessee been able to beat Alabama. Coach Thomas’ boys have not allowed a point in three games this season. It looks bad for Tennessee. The bettors are saying three touchdowns.

“A win this week would be something to

crow about. Tennessee fans everywhere are ready to crow.”

Wilson was more enthusiastic writing about the game:

“Displaying a magnificent brand of defensive football, replete with savage and bruising tackles, Tennessee’s gallant sophomores fought Alabama’s mighty Crimson Tide to a scoreless deadlock on Legion Field, scoring a mild upset as 15,000 fans looked on.

“Father Time saved the day.”

Time has been a friend and foe to Tennessee and Alabama several times in a series that dates to the first of seven ties in 1901. There have been numerous close struggles through the years on The Third Saturday In October. The last four meetings, Big Orange victories, are proof enough of that.

More evidence of the struggle and the spirit that is Alabama vs. Tennessee is expected this year in Knoxville.

Al Browning is sports editor of The Knoxville News-Sentinel and formerly served as sports editor of The Tuscaloosa News and senior writer for 'BAMA. He is the author of Bowl, Bama, Bowl and his research of the Alabama-Tennessee series will be published in his second book next year.



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BAMA SCORECARD

On Winning The SEC

From time-to-time it is pointed out that neither of such-and-such rivals in the Southeastern Conference have won the SEC championship without winning that big game. However, only one of those must-win rivalry games really carries much weight—the annual Third Saturday in October battle between Alabama and Tennessee. That's because in 52 years of SEC plays (53 for a handful of teams that fielded teams in 1943) Alabama has won or shared 18 titles, Tennessee nine—between them over half of the championships.

Alabama has twice survived ties with Tennessee and gone on to take the title, both something of miraculous Bama seasons. In 1953 the Tide took the championship despite being tied by Tennessee, LSU and Mississippi State. In 1965 Alabama survived not only the tie with Tennessee, but also a loss at the hands of Georgia, and still won not only the SEC championship but also the national title.

Bama has had two other league titles that were somewhat sullied, the first year of conference play when the Tide took the championship despite a tie with Ole Miss and the 1972 crown despite a loss to Auburn.

Alabama has tied for the SEC championship four times, always with teams undefeated and untied in conference play—in 1934 tying with Tulane, in 1961 tying with LSU and in 1966 and 1981 tying with Georgia. Alabama's other championships came in 1937, 1945, 1964, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1978 and 1979.

No team has ever been tied by or beaten by Alabama and gone on to win the SEC championship. Every other league team has either tied or beaten the eventual league champ. Perhaps the most incredible of those was Ole Miss beating Tennessee's 1969 champions 38-0.

Aiming Towards 500

If all goes as expected, sometime in January Alabama should become only the second team in Southeastern Conference basketball history to post 500 league victories.

Bama goes into this season with a 53-year record of 497-358 (58.1 percent winning percentage) in SEC games. Kentucky, of course, is the far-and-away leader with an all-time record of 586-138 (80.9 percent) in SEC games. Tennessee trails Kentucky in winning percentage (60.2 on a 460-304 all-time record) while Alabama is third. Vanderbilt (427-363, 54.1 percent) and LSU (425-383, 52.6 percent) are the only other league members with either 400 wins or a winning percentage.

Alabama has a winning record in SEC games against all league members except

Kentucky (25-74) and Tennessee (47-54). The Tide is 50-37 against Auburn, 56-35 against Florida, 73-29 against Georgia, 69-45 against LSU, 82-32 against Ole Miss, 84-47 against Mississippi State and 49-45 against Vanderbilt.

Sander Signs

Alabama Head Baseball Coach Barry Shollenberger wasn't surprised, but that didn't take away the hurt. His top returning starting pitcher, Mike Sander, had not been taken in the professional June draft of eligible juniors. However, when the big righthander had a big season in the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League the pro scouts were hot on the trail. A couple of weeks before school began Sander accepted the offer of the Baltimore Orioles.

That made eight Bama players—seven of them upcoming seniors—from the 1986 team drafted by the pros. No other 1986 college team had more players who signed professional contracts.

Three former Tide baseball stars called up to the major leagues when rosters were expanded to 45 have had big moments. David Magadan, who won the Golden Spike Award as the nation's top amateur baseball player following his 1982 junior (and final) season at Alabama, joined the New York Mets and got a hit in his first at-bat. That thrill was topped a few days later when Magadan started in place of an ailing Keith Hernandez and went three-for-four with two runs batted in, including the game-winner as the Mets clinched the division championship.

Bryan Kelly was called up by Detroit and in his first start pitched 6 1/3 innings, allowing two hits and two runs and striking out six against only three walks. He wasn't involved in the decision but the Tigers got the win.

Finally, catcher Randy Hunt went to Montreal and has been starting. He had one two-hit game for the Expos.

There is no doubt shortstop Craig Shipley would be up with the Los Angeles Dodgers now were it not for an injury. Shipley was called up during midseason (as the Dodgers were hit by injury) and played well. He is recuperating in Tuscaloosa, where his wife, Dennee, is a senior and Bama's number one women's tennis player.

A New Look

With those seven should-have-been-seniors now professionals, it's no surprise that Alabama baseball will have a new look this year. Tide Head Coach Barry Shollenberger notes "We'll be really young, which is the first thing I notice, but the second thing is that we're not going to have the long ball power we've had in the past. We're going to be a

different team offensively, using a lot of hit-and-run, bunting and base stealing. We'll have to play for our runs one at a time instead of waiting for the big inning like we've been able to with seven or eight home run hitters in the lineup.

"On the other hand, I think we'll be a better team defensively than we were last year.

"But, of course, it will come down to the same thing it almost always does at this level, and that's pitching."

Shollenberger, who divides his squad into two teams of near equal ability for the fall schedule of weekend doubleheaders, has lost one top performer indefinitely. Robert Fletcher, an infielder, separated his shoulder while diving for a ball. "He came up with the ball and made the play, but he couldn't get up," said Shollenberger.

Holding Out

Senior distance runner Peter McColgan, an All-Southeastern Conference performer in cross country and several track events over the past few years, will be redshirted this cross country season. "Peter has the potential to win the conference individually," said new Bama Head Track Coach Doug Williamson, "but we think we can put better men with him next year and have a chance to do better as a team in the conference. Since Peter is going to need another semester to graduate it was fine with him." He will compete in indoor and outdoor track this year.

His absence leaves Bama with three rookies and three men who finished far down the list at last year's SEC Championship Meet as the Tide cross country team. Returnees are Michael Brown (38th last year), Pat Morris (53rd) and Regal Perry (62nd), while newcomers are Paul Doughty of Gulf Shores, Brian Winters of Tuscaloosa and Tony Gines of Greenville, Mississippi.

Track Additions

Alabama Head Track Coach Doug Williamson came on the Tide scene long after there was much possibility for recruiting, but he has added two performers for the 1986-87 track and field season. Peter Chiodo, a distance runner from Canada, has transferred to Alabama from Colorado. (Purely coincidentally, Bama recently hired Colorado Head Track Coach David Troy to coach Tide distance runners.) Chiodo will be a sophomore in eligibility. He is not participating in cross country because he has had recent heart surgery, but he should be completely rehabilitated by spring semester.

Bama also added freshman Canadian pole vaulter Rob Lindsay, who has gone 16-4.

Still Around

Liz Lynch, the All-America distance runner

who led Alabama's women's track and field team to the indoor national championships and Southeastern Conference outdoor title, then was declared ineligible, is in school at Alabama, though still ineligible. Lynch, who had a tremendous summer setting national Scottish and Commonwealth Games records, could conceivably regain college eligibility by repaying award money given to her for participation in road races last year (an NCAA violation, though not a violation of amateur athletics). However, she has also been offered a position with a large Scottish corporation to return to her native country and train for the 1988 Olympic Games, and that's generally considered the option she will take.

Swim Successes

A number of Alabama swimmers and divers had successful summer competitions. Junior Mike Davidson, last year's team captain, won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games in Scotland representing his native New Zealand. He then returned to the United States where he joined with Alabama teammate Mark Nieuwenhuis as a member of the San Jose Aquatic Club, coached by former Tide All-America and world record holder Jonty Skinner, and helped San Jose win the national senior championships.

Other Tiders swimming at United States Nationals were Bruce Gennari and newcomers Eric White, Chris McDaniels, Jim Askervold, Tony Portella, Cynthia Kangos, Kelly Purcell and Dorie Green.

Franck Iacono was one of seven Alabama swimmers competing in the World Championships in Madrid, Spain. He was a finalist in the 400-meter freestyle. Other Tiders were Katrine Bomstad, Pernille Nimb, Ricardo Aldabe, Ricardo Valdivia, Enrique Romero and Portella.

In an out-of-the-water success, Filiberto Colon, who graduated last spring with a 3.69 average in premed and who is now in medical school at Houston, has been named an Academic All-America by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America.

House Action Needed

A bill that would grant immediate citizenship status to East German defector and Crimson Tide swimming star Peter Berndt—thus enabling him to compete on the international level and hopefully represent the United States in the 1988 Olympics—has unanimously passed the Senate and been sent to the House of Representatives. However, there has been no action in the House.

Those favoring House passage of the Senate bill are urged to write to Rep. Peter Rodino of New Jersey, chairman of the

Judiciary Committee, and Rep. R.L. Mazzoli of Kentucky, chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration, House Office Building, Washington, D.D. 20510.

Swim Staff

Don Gambriel, Alabama's head swimming and diving coach who has served as coach of United States teams at a number of prestigious events including the 1984 Olympics, didn't coach at the international level this past summer, but two of his staff members did. Assistant Swimming Coach Brian Gordon and Diving Coach Mike Finneran were members of the United States coaching staff at the Goodwill Games in the Soviet Union.

Gambriel has added two graduate assistant coaches for 1986-87, former Wyoming swimmer Chuck Horton and former Maine swimmer Ken Oberg.

Pro Exhibition

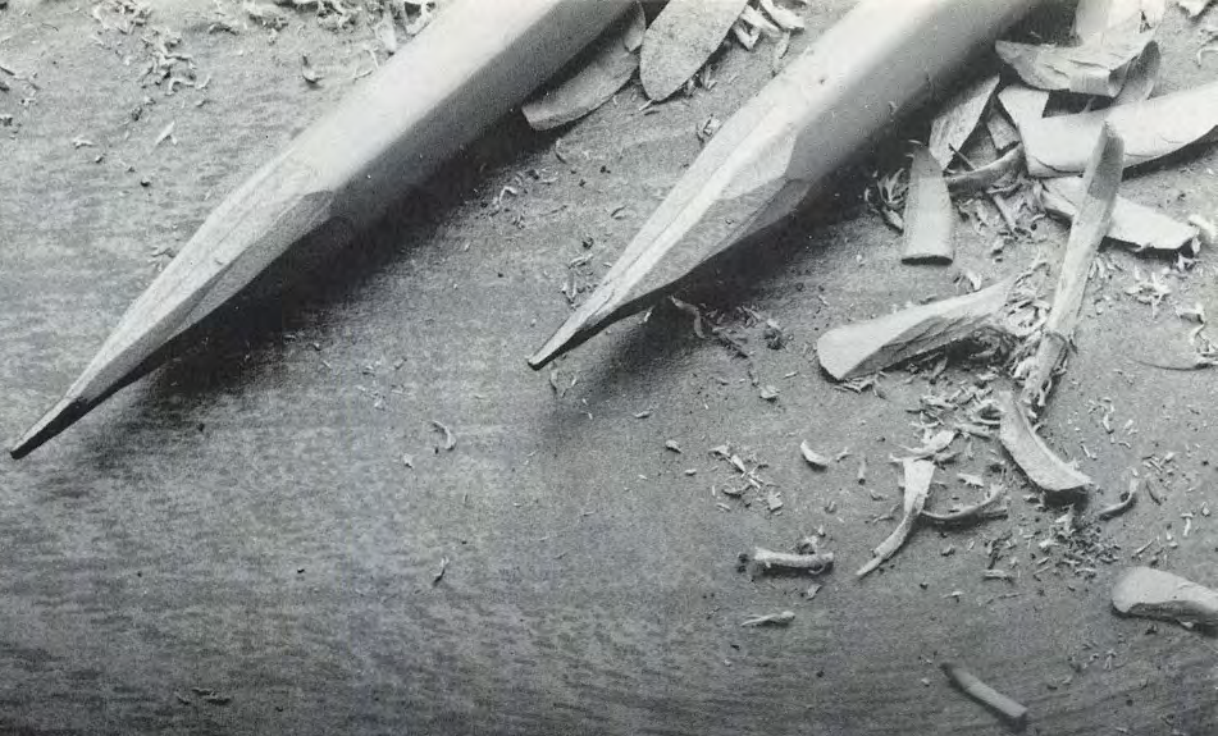
Alabama will host a professional basketball exhibition game at 7:30 p.m. Friday, October 24 (the night before the Alabama-Penn State football game) in Memorial Coliseum. All seats will be reserved and tickets will go on sale in early October at \$12.50, \$10.50 and \$8.50.

The exhibition will pit the Philadelphia 76ers against the Milwaukee Bucks. The game comes a week before the start of NBA play, so lineups are expected to be about as they will be during the regular season. Philadelphia features former Auburn star Charles Barkley, Birmingham native Andrew Toney and Julius "Dr. J" Irving. Milwaukee, Central Division champions last year, is led by Sidney Moncrief, Terry Cummings and Jack Sikma.

Who Could Forget Whatshisname?

In the September issue of 'BAMA, a story giving the results of a readers' poll naming the 1966 team as the best Tide ever inadvertently omitted the name of one of the all-time Alabama favorites, offensive tackle Jerry Duncan. Duncan continues as a member of the Tide football family as the sideline color commentator on Alabama radio broadcasts of Bama games.

The starting lineup for that team was: Offense—Split end Ray Perkins, tackles Duncan and Cecil Dowdy, guards John Calvert and Charlie Stephens, center Jimmy Carroll, tight end Wayne Cook, quarterback Ken Stabler, halfback David Chatwood, fullback Les Kelley and flanker Dennis Homan. Defense—Ends Mike Ford and Charlie Harris, tackles Richard Cole and Louis Thompson, nose guard Johnny Sullivan, linebackers Mike Hall and Bob Childs, and backs Bobby Johns, Dicky Thompson, Donnie Sutton and John Mosley.



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Schedules Of Alabama's 1986 Football Opponents

Team	Aug. 27	Sept. 6	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
OHIO STATE Buckeyes Columbus	10-16 ALABAMA (New York) 8:00 EDT		7-40 @ Washington	13-10 Colorado	Utah	Illinois	@ Indiana	@ Purdue	Minnesota	@ Iowa	Northwestern	@ Wisconsin	Michigan	
VANDERBILT Commodores Nashville	10-42 @ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa)	21-35 @ Maryland	17-31 @ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 1:30 CDT	17-35 Tulane		Duke	Auburn	@ Georgia	Ole Miss	Memphis St.	@ Kentucky	@ Va. Tech		Tennessee
SOUTHERN MISS Golden Eagles Hattiesburg	28-19 N.E. Louisiana		28-24 Miss. State (Jackson)	28-24 Miss. State (Jackson)	@ Texas A&M	@ Kentucky		Memphis St.	@ Tulane	@ E. Carolina		@ FSU	Louisville	
FLORIDA Gators Gainesville	38-14 Ga. Southern (Aug. 30)	15-23 Miami		7-21 ALABAMA (Gainesville) 1:30 EDT	@ Miss. State	LSU	Kent State	@ Rutgers	Auburn		Georgia (Jacksonville)	@ Kentucky		@ FSU
NOTRE DAME Fighting Irish South Bend, Ind.		23-24 Michigan		15-20 @ Michigan State	Purdue	ALABAMA (Birmingham) TBA	Pittsburgh	Air Force		@ Navy	SMU	Penn State	@ LSU	@ USC
MEMPHIS STATE Tigers Memphis		6-28 @ Ole Miss	10-30 Arkansas St.	10-26 SW Louisiana	@ Louisville	Miss. State	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 1:30 CDT	@ Southern Miss	@ Vanderbilt		@ Tennessee	@ Tulane	New Mexico	
TENNESSEE Vols Knoxville		35-21 New Mexico	23-27 Miss. State		@ Auburn	UTEP	Army	ALABAMA (Knoxville) 1:30 EDT	@ Ga. Tech		Memphis St.	Ole Miss (Jackson)	Kentucky	@ Vanderbilt
PENN STATE Nittany Lions University Park		45-15 Temple		26-14 @ Boston college	E. Carolina	Rutgers	Cincinnati	Syracuse	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 1:30 CDT	@ West Virginia	Maryland	@ Notre Dame	Pitt	
MISSISSIPPI STATE Bulldogs Starkville		24-17 @ Syracuse	27-23 @ Tennessee	24-28 Southern Miss (Jackson)	Florida	@ Memphis St.	Arkansas St.	@ Tulane	Auburn	ALABAMA (Starkville) 1:30 CST		LSU (Jackson)	Ole Miss (Jackson)	
LSU Tigers Baton Rouge			35-17 Texas A&M	12-21 Miami, O.		@ Florida	Georgia	@ Kentucky	No. Carolina	Ole Miss	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 1:30 CST	Miss. State (Jackson)	Notre Dame	Tulane
TEMPLE Owls Philadelphia		15-45 @ Penn State	49-17 @ W. Mich.	38-17 Florida A&M	@ BYU	@ Pitt	E. Carolina	@ Va. Tech	Syracuse		Boston College	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 1:30 CST	@ Rutgers	
AUBURN Tigers Auburn		42-14 UT Chattanooga		45-0 E. Carolina	Tennessee	W. Carolina	@ Vanderbilt	Ga. Tech	@ Miss. St.	@ Florida	Cincinnati	Georgia		ALABAMA (Birmingham) 1:30 CST



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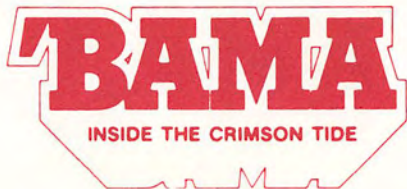
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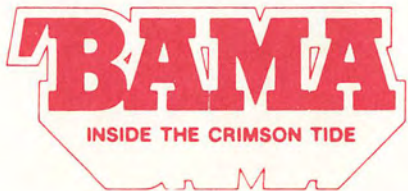
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